GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2511
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2017
Illegal Mining of Mica
Kamal Nath Shri ;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has alleged that some foreign Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are encouraging illegal mining of mica in Girdih and Koderma region of Jharkhand where child labour is rampant, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to investigate such mining activities in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the other steps the Government proposes to take to check illegal mining across the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): State Governments have been empowered to frame rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals for the purposes connected therewith as per Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation), 1957 (MMDR Act, 1957). Therefore, prevention and control of illegal mining comes under the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of State Governments.

As per the information provided by the Government of Jharkhand, no reference has been received from the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights in this regard.

(b) and (c): The State Government of Jharkhand has further informed that district level task force has been constituted for regular inspection and checking to stop illegal mining; and that old mica mining areas are being inspected from time-to-time to control illegal mining.

Further, the Ministry of Mines has recently developed Mining Surveillance System based on use of Satellite Remote Sensing Technology for monitoring of illegal mining in respect of major minerals and the State Governments have also been advised to develop such system for minor minerals such as mica.
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